

appropriate environment to children with disabilities in the project area.

Annual reports of NCM

4058. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the annual reports of the National Commission for Minorities for the period 1995-2000;

(b) whether Government have also received special reports from the commission during the said period;

(c) if so, whether the major recommendations contained in these annual and special reports have been accepted and implemented; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) During the period, the National Commission for Minorities have submitted Annual Reports pertaining to the years 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and Bi-annual Report, 1999 (upto September, 1999) as well as a number of special reports. Action has been initiated on these reports. Concerned Ministries/departments of the Central Government as well as the State Government have been requested for taking appropriate action and sending details of action taken to the Ministry.

Inadequacies in implementation of SC/ST welfare programmes

4059. SHRIMATI VANGA GETHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there are serious inadequacies reported in the implementation of programmes for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

- (c) whether it is also a fact that funds allotted for these programmes are under utilised;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken for its optimum utilisation along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (e) Funds allocated for development of SCs/STs by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment & the Ministry of Tribal Affairs respectively are utilized through the State Govts/UT Administrations and Non-Government Organisations. Funds under various schemes are utilized as per the guidelines based on proposals received, utilization of assistance sanctioned earlier and meeting other conditions. Funds provided under various schemes have been by and large utilised. Further, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have taken several steps for ensuring the proper utilization of funds. With a view to utilise the amount provided for implementation of various schemes/ programmes for welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are taking the following steps:

- (i) Release of funds to States/UTs is made on the basis of a detailed examination of the proposals received,
- (ii) Utilisation Certificates are insisted upon in respect of past release before fresh releases are made,
- (iii) Periodic progress reports are obtained from the States/UTs, showing the progress of implementation of schemes, the beneficiaries covered and other relevant information/data,
- (iv) Senior officers from the Ministries visit the States/UTs to assess the progress of implementation of schemes,
- (v) Meetings with State Secretaries in charge of the subject are convened to ascertain the progress of implementation of schemes,

- (vi) In the case of schemes implemented through Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs), funds are released after obtaining the recommendations of the state Governments/ UTs and after an assessment of the standing of the NGO, past performance, etc. Apart from periodic progress reports, the NGOs are required to furnish annual accounts and audited reports and utilisation certificates on the basis of which further release of funds are made. Inspection of NGOs is also undertaken through State Government/UT officials, and other authorities and also by Central Government officers.

Recommendations of Board of National Trust for the welfare of persons with disabilities

4060. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the first meeting of the Board of National Trust for the welfare of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities was held last October;
- (b) if so, the main recommendations emerged from this meeting;
- (c) whether Government have implemented any such recommendations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it was reported in the press that a number of subcommittees have been formed during its first meetings;
- (f) whether any programme has been identified by such subcommittees; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?